

Applic. No.: 09/994,741

Amdt. Dated June 23, 2005

Reply to Office action of March 23, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-7 and 9-21 are now in the application. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended. Claim 8 has been cancelled. Claim 21 has been added. Claims 10-20 have been allowed.

In item 2 on page 3 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1 and 3-6 have been rejected as being anticipated by Dawson (US 4,373,558) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

In item 3 on page 4 of the above-mentioned Office action, claim 2 has been rejected as being unpatentable over Dawson in view of November (2,555,290) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The rejections have been noted and claim 1 has been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application.

More specifically, the feature of claim 8 has been added to claim 1. Since claim 8 contains allowable subject matter as indicated in item 4 on page 5 of the Office action, claim 1 is now believed to be allowable. Since claims 2-6 are dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

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Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's statement in item 4 on page 5 of the above-mentioned Office action that claims 7-9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The feature of claim 8 has been added to claim 1. Since claims 7 and 9 are dependent on allowable claim 1, they are believed to be allowable in dependent form.

Claim 21 has been added. Claim 21 includes the feature of allowable claim 7 and all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants also acknowledge the Examiner's statement in item 5 on page 5 of the above-mentioned Office action that claims 10-20 have been allowed.

In view of the foregoing, an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance of claims 1-7 and 9-21 is solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

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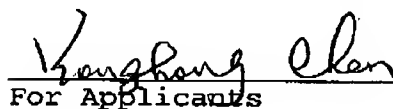
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In the alternative, the entry of the amendment is requested as it is believed to place the application in better condition for appeal, without requiring extension of the field of search.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to 37 CFR Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

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For Applicants

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June 23, 2005

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